

Tips for Teaching Academic Vocabulary:

- **Expose Students to Academic Vocabulary** Do not teach it. You do not need to call attention to words students are learning because they will acquire them subconsciously.
- **Do Not Correct Students' Mistakes When Using the Vocabulary Words** All vocabulary understanding and spelling errors are developmental and will disappear once the student reads more.
- **Help Students Decode the Words Themselves** Once they learn the alphabet, they should be able to decode words. Decoding each word they don't recognize will help them more than trying to focus on sentence structure. Once they can recognize the words, they can read "authentic" texts.
- **Do Not Ignore the English Learner In This Process** They can learn academic vocabulary before they are completely fluent in oral English.
- **Helping Students Build Academic Vocabulary Leads to Broader Learning** Students who have mastered the basic academic vocabulary are ready to continue acquiring words from the rest of the groups. To help determine which words are in the 2,000-word basic group, refer to *West's General Service List of English Words*, (1953). The list is designed to serve as a guide for teachers and as a checklist and goal list for students. For additional information about the list, visit: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals/research/awl/info.html> or you can check <http://www.uni-trier.de/uni/fb2/anglistik/projekte/stubbs/awl.htm>